

issue, and as you all know, he served on the petition task force, but he was also not in favor of the bifurcated system at first because of the questions about constitutionality. But he did say to me last night that he and the people he supports could live without this amendment, they could live with the bill as it is without this amendment. He also said that if this...if the amendment to increase the number of signatures is adopted, then there would be...there would be a serious problem in their minds with that. What I'm suggesting to you is that I've worked very hard, and so have some other people, to keep the signatures down. I know there are a lot of people in this body who would like to see the signatures go up. I could name them, and, yes, Senator Hall, you were at the top of my list. There are people who would like to have the signatures go up, but I think that we've come up with a good compromise...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...because the signature number is more for the paid circulators; it stays the same for the volunteer circulators, and I'm suggesting that if either one of these amendments go on, then there will not be the kinds of consensus that we have on the bill right now, and this is not a bill that requires 25 votes. I want to see us do something about the petition process this year, and I would ask you to consider not adopting the Dierks amendment, not increasing the number of signatures. Let's go with the bill that we had on General File, which got 38 votes on General File, and there were some people gone. So I think that we would have the option later on of either putting it on the primary or the general ballot, and with that, I would thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just briefly, I would certainly endorse what Senator Schimek has said on the issue, but I feel very strongly that if this is reversed, the odds are very good that you'd never...may never get the two-tier system into court. Obviously, the possibility of having a constitutional amendment on the ballot in '96, it would take it all before it took effect, and the likelihood that you will not be able to get into any court unless the two-tier system is in effect, and if that effective date is delayed till '97, it leaves in limbo just for...obviously, for two more years and that makes little or...excuse me, it wouldn't be getting